

FAMOUS WAR EAGLE

Bird Attracts World Wide Notice By Attention Paid Them.

HAS SEEN ACTUAL SERVICE

Although a Conspicuous Target for Bullets in Six Battles, the Feathered Patriot Lived to Be the Pet of Reunions.

"Old Abe," the famous war eagle of the Eighth Wisconsin regiment, has been dead for over 25 years. That his memory still survives would still suggest that even a bird may be immortal.

brought \$2.50 at the second purchase. The company in a jocular spirit voted to accept "the new recruit from Chippewa," and the eagle was solemnly sworn into the service.

At Lacrosse the same enthusiasm was manifest, and the soldiers came to the conclusion that in selecting their mascot they had chosen more wisely than they knew.

A new perch was then constructed for the bird of freedom. It was painted with arrows to represent the United States Seal. The eagle was named "Old Abe" in honor of President Lincoln.

Leaving St. Louis, the eagle regiment went to battle. On the way the men had to wade a stream waist deep, and in the middle of it the bird waded shrewly, and the soldiers answered with laughter and cheers even while struggling through the water.

In the spring of 1861 a Chippewa Indian called Chief Sky captured a nest of young eaglets on the Flambeau river in Wisconsin. Later Chief Sky went down the river with some of his tribe to sell baskets, pots and necessaries.

comrades captured 6,000 prisoners, it was related that the Confederate soldiers seemed to have a superstitious regard for this living emblem of the Union.

At the battle of Farmington the bird showed a peculiar intelligence. When the men were ordered to lie down behind their breastworks Old Abe scrambled down also.

Old Abe went through the battles of Iuka and Corinth. By this time he had become famous in both armies, and the Confederate General Price ordered his capture, saying that he would rather have him than a dozen battleflags.

It was at the battle of Corinth that an incident occurred which has become celebrated in song and story. There the Eighth Wisconsin was in a peculiarly exposed position.

At Coldwater, Tenn., the eagle broke his cord and flew to a distant treetop, but was coaxed down by a live chicken. On a later occasion, while the colonel was making a speech to the regiment, the boys cheered loudly, and Old Abe, wishing to share in the enthusiasm, jumped up and down with such force that he again snapped his cord and flew high into the blue.

Upon the march to Memphis Old Abe bit his cord in two, again escaping and flying on ahead of the army. This time he was captured by the bearer simply approaching cautiously and holding the perch at right angle.

While keenly enjoying any kind of fight, Old Abe seemed to take most delight in the booming of artillery. He showed no fear in the presence of the great guns, but at every discharge would spread his wings and scream as if animated by all the enthusiasm of war.

Vicksburg was the eagle's last great battle, although he served nearly to the end of 1864, being part of the time with Sherman and afterward going with his regiment through the campaigns in Louisiana and Arkansas. He

was afterward given to the state of Wisconsin with appropriate ceremonies, the governor making a speech in his honor.

At one time Old Abe fought with an eagle called Andy Johnson and killed him. He attended fairs all over the northwest and was in constant demand at soldiers' reunions.

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